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INFO RUEHFK/AMCONSUL FUKUOKA 6970  
RUEHOK/AMCONSUL OSAKA KOBE 0246  
RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING 3038  
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SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION Q PALESTINIAN-ISRAELI RELATIONS -  
TOKYO

LEAD STORIES: Most Thursday morning papers front-paged the family reunion in North Korea between South Korean abductee Kim Young Nam, who is believed to be Megumi Yokota's husband, and his kin for the first time since he was kidnapped by North Korea 28 years ago.

1. "Coexistence of Two States the Only Way" The liberal Mainichi editorialized (6/29): "What an ironic development. The Islamic fundamentalist group Hamas, which is the core of the Palestinian Authority, agreed in principle on a policy paper regarding coexistence with Israel. Shortly afterwards, however, Israeli troops went on the offensive in the Gaza Strip and destroyed bridges, power substations, and other facilities on which the Palestinians depend. The poor residents of Gaza will suffer further. The US and EU nations froze aid to the Palestinians following the formation of the Hamas-led cabinet. Palestinians may view this as punishment for their voting for Hamas candidates in a democratic election or as economic sanctions on refugees.

2. "On top of that, the Israeli troops that withdrew from Gaza last fall have returned in force. There are concerns that this will not only deal a blow to the everyday lives of Palestinians but also trigger expanded retaliatory attacks from armed Palestinian groups, further diminishing hopes for peace. We hope that the US, which has played a leading role in the peace process, will send a senior government official to Israel and the Palestinian territories to calm the situation.... Earlier this month, members of a Palestinian family were killed and injured on a Gaza beach in an attack believed to have been launched by Israel troops. The military wing of Hamas then broke the truce and launched an attack on

Israel, capturing an Israeli soldier. The Israeli incursion is aimed at retrieving that soldier. Israel should have further explored the possibility of a diplomatic resolution of the situation, as Secretary of State Rice had urged."

DONOVAN